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DM

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/456,833	12/07/99	SAKAMOTO	Y KAW-215-USAP

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QM12/0705

EXAMINER

HOTALING, J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3713

DATE MAILED:

07/05/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trad marks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/456,833

Applicant(s)

SAKAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

John M Hotaling II

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).


MARK SAGER
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slomiany et al US Patent 6,159,098 in view of Shimizu et al US Patent 6,227,970.

Slomiany discloses all of the instant application with the exception of displaying the details of the game in the display section of the special game, the game history, game directions, and an indication of errors. The use of start and stop buttons for reels in a slot machine is notoriously well known in the art. Slomiany discloses a slot machine with a second display for displaying a bonus game which may be any type of game which is entered upon the occurrence of a selected event or outcome of the basic game (column 1 lines 32-35). Column 3 lines 23-37 discloses a start switch or lever and using technology well known in the art causes the reel to stop in a selected stop position. Column 3 line 49-51 discloses that the payoff amount of certain combinations is predetermined according to a paytable which is stored in memory. Column 12 lines 41-53 discloses that the bonus game may be played alone or with a basic game other than a slot machine. In an analogous machine, Shimizu discloses the use of a slot machine in which a sub-display device displays histories of past games and other information is provided. Column 2 lines 52-61 discloses the use of the push button or the touch

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screen. Column 4 line 51-67 discloses that many differing functions can be assigned to the buttons. Column 5 lines 37-53 discloses displaying in the main display device game history. Column 6 lines 1-4 disclose placing a max bet. Column 6 line 47 – column 7 line 13 and figure 6 discloses that a main menu image is displayed in the sub display device which may include game specification, time and money alarm, and game record and history. In addition, since these functions are not directly relevant to the progress of the game displayed in the main display device operation of these buttons do not effect the progress of the game. It is not disclosed but it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that a multitude of information could be contained under the heading of “Game Specification” including instructions for playing the game. Providing instructions for a user of a game is not uncommon. Column 9 line 37 – column 10 line 11 disclose feature play history, diagnosis, detection, position, details, and a way of fixing the error can be displayed. Column 10 lines 10-30 disclose that a part or the whole of the sub display may be used for advancing the game. Therefore it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have a game machine with a basic game and a bonus game with a screen that is used to display information relevant to the playing of the gaming machine including historical information, game information, and error indication as advantageously taught by the above references. One would be motivated to combine these references in order to provide improved communication and information to the user of a game machine as disclosed above and since both references disclose that the information can be displayed in multiple places such as the main display, auxiliary display or both or a combination of displays.

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following references are relevant to the instant application in that bonus games or historical information is shown on one or more displays

Shcneider et al '976, Walker et al '552, Piechowiak et al '982, Mayeroff '442, Acres '445, Demar et al '429, Hedrick et al '884, Okuda et al '484, Thomas et al '255, Okada '651.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M Hotaling II whose telephone number is 703 305 0780. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Martin-Wallace can be reached on (703) 308-4119. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 308-7768 for regular communications and 703 308-7769 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-7777.

John M Hotaling II
June 20, 2001



MARK SAGER
PRIMARY EXAMINER